



# Old Idaho Penitentiary

## State Historic Site

### General Information

#### Program Grade Level:

4th grade - Adult

(Younger students will enjoy viewing "Doin' Time" and exploring the Yard with their adult chaperones)

**Cost:** Educational discount is \$2 per student. Please be prepared to pay as a group at arrival.

**Chaperones:** At least one adult teacher or chaperone is required for every ten students. 4-5 adults can be accommodated with each typical class sized group.

**Group Size:** 10 to 50 students can best be accommodated at a time although up to 100 students can be scheduled if necessary. If your group is larger, please call or e-mail us for suggestions on how to plan your trip so that we may accommodate you.

**Program Length:** 2 hours

**Open All Year:** Interpretive programs for educational groups are only scheduled Labor Day through Memorial Day. Regular admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children 6-12.

**Handicap Access:** Call us to discuss access for students with special needs.

**Facilities:** Main prison, Yard, Cell houses, Women's Ward, Prison Gift Shop, restrooms, cold drink machine, picnic area, hiking trails to the Penitentiary sandstone quarry and Table Rock.

### Typical Class Visit

View "Doin' Time" - 20 min

Interpreter led walk in the Yard - 75 min

Small group exploration with your adults - 15 min

Gift shop/restroom time - 10 min

Total time for your visit - 2 hours

### How to Schedule Your Visit

#### Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site

Interpretive Specialist  
208-334-2844 or  
stthomas@ishs.state.id.us

Make reservations for interpretive programs at least 4 weeks in advance. We suggest reservations for April and May be made in the fall -but in any case no later than March 1. Please consider coming in the less busy fall months. During summer months, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, we are unable to schedule programs for educational groups. You will receive our 34 page Educational Resource Packet after you make your reservation. Prices and schedules are subject to change and availability.

### Nearby Points of Interest

#### All within walking distance:

Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology  
208 368-9876

Idaho Botanical Garden  
208 343-8649

Quarry View Park

Quarry and Table Rock Trails

### Programs for Educational Groups

The Old Idaho Penitentiary served as Idaho's prison from 1870 until 1973. After the Penitentiary closed in 1973, the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the Idaho State Historical Society offers your class a unique interpretive program.

Our interpreters will share stories of notorious prisoners, escapes, and prison life. Your students will hear how inmates quarried the stone and built the prison themselves, and they will gain an understanding of the Penitentiary's place in Idaho history.

### Creative Program Options

Art, photography, creative writing, science, problem solving, a trip to the Old Penitentiary can enhance your curriculum.

Draw or photograph the foreboding sandstone buildings, challenge your students to plan their own escapes, let your students' imaginations roam while writing letters home from inside a prison cell. Call us with your own creative ideas.

### Teacher Guided Class Visits without Reservations

While we encourage you to help your students get the most out of their visit by scheduling an interpretive program, your class is welcome to visit during our regular hours, 12 to 5pm, without a reservation.

We suggest, however, that you phone ahead to avoid congestion with other groups. We require at least one adult chaperone be assigned to 10 or fewer students (one per five is suggested), and that students stay with chaperones through the entire visit.

Our video, "Doin' Time", will help orient your class at the beginning of your visit. The booklet, "A Walking Tour Guide", is available for \$2.50 at the front desk to help chaperones with self-guided visits.

Please encourage your students to dress for the weather. Important: Follow bus parking signs.

### Programs in Hansen, ID

#### Rock Creek Station & Stricker Homesite State Historic Site

Your students will take part in hands on activities and walk in the steps of the pioneers on the Oregon Trail. The fun focuses on turn of the nineteenth century pioneer life at the 100 year old Stricker Home.

The Friends of Stricker, Inc., a partner of the Idaho State Historical Society, offers a limited number of programs for educational groups. Call 208-334-2844 for more information.

